



# National Career Development Association

*Inspiring Careers...Empowering Lives!*

The National Career Development Association (NCDA) is the recognized leader in developing standards for the career development profession as well as for the provision of career counseling programs and services. Founded in 1913, the NCDA is the longest running and preeminent career development association in the world. In addition, NCDA is a founding division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and has over 5000 members. As Congress considers key issues impacting workers across the country, we stand ready to serve as a resource.

## NCDA Recommendations for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

The NCDA believes that the US workforce system is essential to helping job seekers find employment in the current economic downturn. ***We urge Congress to consider a WIA reauthorization that will protect career services and programs available through one stop centers, job training programs, and veterans' reintegration programs.*** The dynamic nature of the ever-changing world of work requires access to career development resources and services for individuals at all ages and stages.

### Elementary & Secondary Education Act Reauthorization

The bases for life-long career management begins when youth gain knowledge related to career choice, pathways, and alternatives through a robust K-12 system that includes opportunities for exploration, practice, and alignment of career choice with personal goals and interests. As the ESEA reauthorization works its way through the process, it is imperative that school counseling services remain a part of the education system. Without these services, students will lack the career pathways and choices needed to find a career after his or her education. Although the federal deficit remains a top issue, career counseling services for students is an investment we cannot afford to reduce.

### Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations

The workforce investments made through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, such as one-stop career centers, unemployment counseling programs and the like, have been instrumental in supporting our efforts to enhance economic development and reduce unemployment. ***We urge Congress to continue the investments in these programs at current levels.*** In addition, we strongly encourage legislators to ***oppose those efforts to consolidate programs which we believe would reduce both the services available as well as the benefits of the federal partnerships encouraged through the legislation.***